

Dear Administrators,
Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Interestingly, I watched "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" for the first time two days ago with my wife and children. I found it sad that the state of affairs in the media are not much better today than they were in 1939 when that film was released. With huge media companies like Sinclair and Fox spewing forth right-wing propaganda, how can a democracy function properly? There are people in my own family who only get their news from Fox, believing it is "real". Pathetic.
Thank you.